

Assemblymember Christine Kehoe



*Brings You News
From Sacramento*

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Assemblymember Christine Kehoe, Speaker Pro Tem

Budget Reforms Approved by Assembly

With the Governor's endorsement, on Thursday the Assembly unanimously approved a balanced budget plan to place on the March 2004 ballot and there was overwhelming support for a bond measure. I too don't want to see our budget balanced on the backs of the disabled or the poor and the Governor demonstrated a real compassion and willingness to compromise, which I appreciated. The two bills that were passed go a long way to rebuilding California's finances. Due to the severity of our fiscal crisis both bills are justified and urge your support of these measures on the March ballot.

To let me know how you feel about this issue, contact me at Assemblymember.Kehoe@assembly.ca.gov

Apply to Assembly Fellowship Program

Each year the California State Assembly offers a Fellowship Program, and I'm pleased to announce we're taking applications now.

The Assembly Fellowship Program offers post-baccalaureate students and mid-career professionals the opportunity to expand their knowledge and understanding of the legislative process. It provides a challenging, professional work experience that can serve as the foundation for successful careers in both the public and private sectors.

The 11-month program gives college graduates the opportunity of a lifetime to become full-time State Assembly staff members working on fiscal and policy issues in an Assemblymember's Capitol or committee office. Fellows will participate in a weekly academic seminar with Assemblymembers, senior staff, journalists, and lobbyists, earning 12 graduate credits from California State University, Sacramento (CSUS). Fellows are paid a monthly stipend of \$1,882 per month, plus health, dental and vision benefits.

Applicants must have earned their undergraduate degree by September 2004. No specific major is preferred and recent fellows have had various

majors, including agricultural science, communications, drama, ethnic studies, and political science. Individuals with advanced degrees, or mid-career professionals are encouraged to apply.

The California State Assembly in conjunction with the Center for California Studies at CSUS administer the program. Applications are available at Assemblymember Kehoe's Capitol office, or by calling her district office at (619) 294-7600. You may also request an application online from the Center for California Studies at www.csus.edu/calst/programs/jesse_unruh.html, by email at calstudies@csus.edu, or phone (916) 319-3753.

Serving Downtown's Seniors

Providing nutritious meals to high-risk seniors is to satisfy their most basic needs – without the meal programs provided by such organizations as Senior Community Centers in downtown San Diego, our senior population would be in great jeopardy. The nutritious meals provided by Senior Community Centers ensure the nutritional wellbeing of countless San Diego seniors.

This week, I had the honor of serving lunch at the downtown Senior Community Center. Spending the afternoon volunteering at the senior center was such a rewarding experience.

Senior Community Centers opened its doors in 1970 to help meet the basic needs of high-risk seniors living in downtown San Diego, home to the highest percentage of low-income elderly in the region. Today, they are still the only existing provider of services to San Diego's urban elderly.

If you'd like to volunteer your time at Senior Community Centers, go to <http://www.servingseiors.org/> for more information.



California's Environmental Roadmap

This week in San Diego I had the pleasure of hosting a Statewide Environmental Community Meeting, during which community leaders, activists and environmentalists came together to discuss California's environmental future.

Representatives from organizations such as the Natural Resources Defense Council, the Audubon Society, and the Sierra Club discussed developing a comprehensive, statewide plan that focuses on the important interrelationships among all California's environmental needs – improved planning, water quality, fire protection, and managed forestry.

California has been a leader when it comes to environmental protections. Some may say we're *too* extreme. But we're facing a situation where environmental protections are being drastically rolled back on the federal level. We need to protect the very essence of what makes California so wonderful – our waterways, beaches and landscape. I don't think that's extreme, I think that's *passionate*.

Focusing on these issues has always been important to me – and my role in the Assembly enables me to bring attention and support to California's environmental needs. Environmental protection affects everything from economic growth, safety, exposure to pollutants, and so much more.

The Environmental Community Meeting allowed interested parties to get together and discuss how to best protect California's environment while working with Governor Schwarzenegger's administration. The new Governor says he supports important environmental issues, and I'm committed to working with him to maximize any and all opportunities.



Statewide Environmental Community Meeting

Clairemont Town Council Members Honored

In recognition of their work with the Clairemont Town Council (CTC) I recently honored Thomas C. Schmidt and Pete Stipp with California State Certificates of Appreciation during their town council meeting.

Thomas C. Schmidt was recognized for his work with the Balboa Avenue Citizens Advisory Committee (BACAC) as well as the CTC. One of Schmidt and the Committee's primary goals is working with the area's business and planning leaders to create and maintain a beautiful Balboa Avenue. Schmidt has been an active asset to this community for many years. His dedication and commitment to BACAC is indispensable. Schmidt has been a tireless advocate of increasing community spirit and identity -- he should be proud of his achievements.

Pete Stipp serves as the CTC's Vice-President, Newspaper Editor, and Parks and Recreation Representative. He was instrumental in the effort to create the Skate Park in Clairemont and increase funding for other community recreation areas. He also compiles the monthly CTC newsletter. Pete has so much energy he dedicates towards improving and maintaining Clairemont's living standards. He should be proud of the effort he puts forth to make Clairemont a better place to work and live. His commitment to his goals is something we can all admire.

If you know someone in your community who is deserving of special recognition, email me at Assemblymember.Kehoe@assembly.ca.gov to let me know.

***Kehoe with
Clairemont
resident
Thomas C.
Schmidt***



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